

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATIC DEVICE DRIVER IDENTIFICATION AND INSTALLATION

ABSTRACT

Systems and methods that provide for automatic device driver identification and installation. Each peripheral device to be added to a computer network or coupled to a personal computer is configured to have a uniform resource locator (URL) stored in its onboard firmware that provides direction to a location on the Internet where appropriate driver software is located and available for downloading and installation. When the peripheral device is connected to or to be used by the personal computer, the URL located in the firmware of the peripheral device is accessed. The URL automatically connects a web browser on the personal computer to an Internet site holding a driver for the peripheral device. Header information provided by the browser communicates information such as the type of personal computer and its operating system to the Internet site. The Internet site downloads a driver installation package for the peripheral device to the browser that is appropriate to the personal computer and operating system, and that is capable of implementing a driver installation process without a user specifying any option selections. The personal computer automatically initiates the driver installation process upon receipt of the driver installation package. The user is typically notified when the driver installation process is complete.